



New Educational Book, *The Sound of Learning: Why Self-Amplification Matters*, Is Now Available

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NEW EDUCATIONAL BOOK

The Sound of Learning: Why Self-Amplification Matters

February 6, 2006 (Minneapolis, MN)—Today marks wide availability for a new book titled *The Sound of Learning: Why Self-Amplification Matters* by Dr. Timothy Rasinski, Dr. Carol Flexer and Theresha Boomgarden-Szypulski, CCC-SLP. This book explores the science and rationale behind self-amplification and how it can boost the learning-to-read process. The book includes practical applications of the self-amplification tool, WhisperPhone®, in the classroom and home.

“*The Sound of Learning* describes the use of phonemes and ways in which to maximize phonemes in common learning environments. We look forward to parents and teachers alike gaining knowledge from this book,” said Carol Flexer, co-author.

The sound of learning is the way we use sound to learn—such as reading aloud—in order to connect spoken language and written text. It is the sound of children improving their literacy by reading aloud or an adult speaking aloud to increase her concentration. This book, named for this concept, explores the power of using the sound of one’s voice to boost learning.

The authors have 90 combined years experience in their respective fields—literacy (Rasinski), audiology (Flexer) and speech language pathology (Boomgarden-Szypulski).

Reading has a strong auditory foundation, which is why students learning to read “sound-it-out” and read aloud. A 2003 study conducted by Dr. Flexer, which is described in the book, demonstrates that the WhisperPhone® increased the signal-to-noise ratio 10-fold, meaning that children can hear themselves more clearly against background noise. This clearer signal raises phonemic awareness, which is a key component of learning to read according to the National Reading Panel.

Dr. Timothy Rasinski, Ph.D., is a professor of education at Kent State University. He has published more than 100 articles and ten books on reading education including *The Fluent Reader: Oral Reading Strategies for Building Word Recognition, Fluency, and Comprehension*; *3-Minute Reading Assessments: Word Recognition, Fluency, and Comprehension: Grades 5-8 (3-minute Reading Assessments)* and *Phonics to Fluency: Effective Teaching of Decoding and Reading Fluency in the Elementary School*. He is currently an editor for the *Journal of Literacy Research* and on the board of directors of the International Reading Association.

Dr. Carol Flexer, Ph.D., is a professor of audiology at the University of Akron and has authored more than 140 academic publications. She has co-authored *Literacy Learning for Children Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, We Can Hear and Speak: The Power of Auditory-Verbal Communication for Children Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing* and *Sound Field Amplification: Applications to Speech Perception and Classroom Acoustics*. She consults and lectures internationally about the role of hearing in education.



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Theresha A. Boomgarden-Szypulski, CCC-SLP, holds a masters degree in speech-language pathology. She is the founder of Accessing Better Communication, Inc., and she lectures internationally.

The Sound of Learning: Why Self-Amplification Matters is published by Harebrain, Inc., makers of WhisperPhone® and dedicated to helping improve literacy. Additional details about WhisperPhone® and *The Sound of Learning* can be found at www.WhisperPhone.com.

Paperback

ISBN: 0-9774246-0-X

Retail price is \$15.95

Available through most school distribution catalogs, education retailers and www.WhisperPhone.com.

The WhisperPhone, an educational tool for children and adults, is available for purchase through education suppliers, specialty catalogs, school product retailers and many other outlets. The WhisperPhone® is an innovative product to help readers learn. It is hands-free, reversible, lightweight and dishwasher safe. No batteries are required. Made in the USA by Harebrain, Inc.

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